

MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS
HELD IN WASHINGTON, D. C., MARCH 25 AND 26, 1932

The eighth meeting of the Commission of Fine Arts during the fiscal year 1932 was held in its office in the Interior Department Building on March 25 and 26, 1932. The following members were present:

Mr. Moore, Chairman,
Mr. Winter,
Mr. Cross,
Mr. Weinman,
Mr. Mauran,
Mr. Swartwout,
and Mr. H. P. Caemmerer,

Executive Secretary and Administrative Officer. There was also present Mr. Wm. Mitchell Kendall of the firm of McKim, Mead and White, New York. The meeting was called to order at 9:30 a. m.

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The Minutes of the meeting held in Washington on January 19, and in New York on February 26, were approved.

2. YANGTZE SERVICE MEDAL: A third design by Mr. John R. Sinnock was submitted by the Bureau of Navigation of the Navy Department for the Yangtze Service Medal. This design showed a Chinese junk. Mr. Winter said there should be no perspective in the sails of the junk inasmuch as they are practically square. Mr. Mauran suggested presenting this design to the Chinese Ambassador before going ahead with it. The Commission believed that the design should be re-studied, showing in particular another arrangement of the sails and referred the matter to Mr. Weinman, who after consideration, wrote the following to Mr. Sinnock:

March 29, 1932.

Dear Mr. Sinnock:

I am sending you today under separate cover Geographic Magazines of June 1929 and October 1927 showing various views

of Chinese junks which may help you in redesigning the obverse for the Yangtze Service Medal. On page 683 of the June 1929 issue you will find a picture of a junk with sails partly reefed and it seems well adaptable for a lateral composition. Should you decide to show sails hoisted high, then I would suggest eliminating the inscription at upper edge and running masts and sails close to upper edge, producing a vertical design. In "Asia" magazine, of which I also sent you a copy, you will find some very decorative junks which may lend themselves well for an interesting design.

Sincerely yours,
(Signed) A. A. Weinman.

The Secretary of the Navy was informed accordingly. (Exhibit A)

3. HARRODSBURG (KY.) MEMORIAL: A request was received from Brigadier General L. H. Bash, Chief of Construction Division, Office of the Quartermaster General, War Department, for an inspection of the model for the Harrodsburg Memorial, designed by Mr. Francis Keally, Architect, 101 Park Avenue, New York City.

Mr. Cross said that he in company with Mr. Swartwout made an inspection of the model for the Harrodsburg Memorial at Mr. Keally's office, and at our suggestion he made some modifications which we returned to see the following day. These consisted in widening the opening in the enclosing wall by the width of the cheek pieces on either side of the steps leading to the Memorial. When this was done on the model we were all satisfied that it was an improvement. The cheek pieces or curbing of the steps was likewise reduced so as to be but slightly above the edge of the steps finishing flush with the floor of the Memorial. It was also agreed that a slight pitch to the enclosing wall forming the back to the seat would be desirable, this back terminating in a slight lip or nosing to overcome too harsh an effect.

The planting back of the Memorial seemed much more satisfactory, though we preferred to leave the technical decision as to material to be used to

the new landscape member of the Commission. The Commission concurred in this matter and informed General Bash accordingly. (Exhibit B)

4. GEORGE WASHINGTON BICENTENNIAL TWENTY-FIVE CENT PIECE: Models were resubmitted by the Secretary of the Treasury for the George Washington Bicentennial 25-cent piece by letter of March 23, 1932, as follows:

Dear Mr. Moore:

I have selected for the new quarter dollar, as authorized by law, one of the two models viewed by you on your recent visit to the Treasury Department. In view of the criticisms made by the Commission of the model selected, I have asked for a restudy of it, which has been made, and changes have been effected in the model which I hope will meet the criticisms of the Commission.

I am submitting this restudied model to you for advice as to the merits of such a design before finally approving its selection for the new coin.

Sincerely yours,
(Signed) Ogden L. Mills,
Secretary of the Treasury.

The models were inspected by the Commission. Mr. Swartwout said the head of George Washington has no character. Mr. Weinman said it lacks the vigor of the head on the models formerly selected by the Commission and that the whole treatment is just a little commonplace. The hair, Mr. Weinman said, would look very fussy in the reduction. The same general criticisms applied also to the eagle, Mr. Swartwout adding that it looked rather thin. Mr. Kendall remarked that the eagle reminded him of a sign over an old restaurant in New York. Mr. Moore suggested that the Commission stick to its original findings as a result of the competition and said that furthermore it would not seem consistent for the Commission now to change its mind. A report was sent to the Secretary of the Treasury accordingly. (Exhibit C)

5. NAVAL HOSPITAL PLANS: The Allied Architects of Washington through their representatives, Mr. Delos Smith and Professor F. V. Murphy, submitted informally progress studies that they have been making since the meeting of the Commission the latter part of February for the Naval Hospital development. It was thought very desirable to get the views of the Commission on the progress made in these plans because of the relation of the project to the National Institute of Health development, which is adjacent to it on the west, and the American Pharmaceutical Association building project to the east.

The sketches for the Naval Hospital were inspected by the Commission. They were considered satisfactory. In the consideration of them it was decided to place the sick officers' quarters on the southwest corner of the grounds instead of southeast. Mr. Smith and Mr. Murphy said that they had been cooperating with Mr. Louis Simon of the Supervising Architects' Office in his work in preparing plans for the National Institute of Health development. They also expressed their interest in the sketch made by Mr. Pope, showing the exact location for the American Pharmaceutical Association Building on Constitution Avenue between 22nd and 23rd Streets with the building slightly in front of the National Academy of Sciences Building on the east. They propose to embody the ground plan for the building in the general plan for the Naval Hospital development. They expect to submit completed studies to the Commission at the meeting in April.

6. NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF HEALTH: Mr. Louis A. Simon, Chief of the Architectural Division of the Supervising Architects' Office of the Treasury Department, submitted a sketch model, 20 feet to the inch, for the proposed development of the National Institute of Health on grounds west of the Naval Hospital Building. Mr. Simon said the preparation of the model had given

them much difficulty because of the fact that there is such a drop in the contour of the land at this point but every effort had been made to prepare a model which he hoped would be a satisfactory basis for proceeding with the construction project.

Mr. Simon said they have funds for beginning construction of the administration building of the National Institute of Health and that a contract must be made by June 30, 1932, or the funds will lapse. The Commission studied the model very carefully, noting its relationship to the Naval Hospital development and to Constitution Avenue and the Rock Creek Parkway. The model showed the existing laboratory at the north end of the grounds of the National Institute of Health and the administration building at the south end. The Commission noted in particular that the building itself will be a considerable distance from Constitution Avenue. The grounds are to be studied from the standpoint of a landscape architect in connection with a general study for the development of this locality, involving the National Institute of Health, the Naval Hospital Building and the American Pharmaceutical Association Building. The Commission regarded the sketch model satisfactory and a report was sent to Assistant Secretary of the Treasury Heath accordingly. (Exhibit D)

7. AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION BUILDING: In accordance with a request made by the Commission in New York City on February 26, 1932, Mr. John Russell Pope submitted a perspective showing the location proposed for the American Pharmaceutical Association Building along Constitution Avenue between 22nd and 23rd Streets and indicating the exact location of the building slightly in front of the National Academy of Sciences Building on the east. The Commission concurred in the site proposed for the building as indicated

by the sketch. The Commission also took note of Mr. Pope's suggestion for the treatment of the grounds to the west of 23rd Street to the Rock Creek Parkway and the Potomac River.

The Commission advised Dr. E. F. Kelly, Secretary of the American Pharmaceutical Association, of the approval of this plan of Mr. Pope's but also informed him that he can not begin the erection of the building until legislation is enacted by Congress for the closing of Upper Water Street between 22nd and 23rd Streets. The bill, having passed the Senate, is now pending in the House. (Exhibit E; see also Exhibit E-1)

8. SHIPSTEAD-LUCE ACT REGULATIONS: Mr. Moore said he had been in conference with the District Commissioners regarding the Shipstead-Luce Act submissions and that at the conference the question of window projections for Kann's department store at 7th Street and Pennsylvania Avenue was considered. The District Commissioners were afraid to let the matter go to court inasmuch as it was doubtful what the decision would be. Mr. Moore said the Kann store is opposite one of the most important buildings in Washington, namely, the Archives Building, and he would have been glad to go into court about it but he recommended that the owners of the Kann store be persuaded not to prosecute the case and that was done. The District Commissioners are in sympathy with the Shipstead-Luce Act.

Mr. Mauran said regarding the draft of regulations that they are ready for issuance and the purpose of them is really to clarify the meaning of the Shipstead-Luce Act and put it in a form readily usable by architects and builders. With a few slight amendments, arising from the criticism by Major Tuvison, Acting Engineer Commissioner, which are to be embodied in the draft of the regulations, the Commission approved the draft and requested the Secretary

to make the necessary arrangements for printing as soon as possible during the next fiscal year. (Exhibit F)

9. JAMES CARDINAL GIBBONS MEMORIAL: The architects of the James Cardinal Gibbons Memorial, Messrs. Rich, Mathesius and Koyl, New York City, submitted blueprints of the revised inscription for the north and south panels on the pedestal of the James Cardinal Gibbons Memorial with letter, dated March 21, 1932, as follows:

Dear Mr. Moore:

We are sending you under separate cover, the revised inscriptions for the north and south panels on the pedestal of the Cardinal Gibbons Memorial, to be erected at 14th Street, N. W., and Park Road. The changes made follow closely the suggestions you made to the writer, namely, the height of the letters in James Cardinal Gibbons has been reduced, and the spacing between lines slightly increased. We have restudied completely the inscription on the north panel. We attempted to arrange the inscription as follows - Erected by Knights of Columbus MOM III - but found that channels developed immediately, which were almost impossible to correct. Therefore we have retained the word "the" before "Knights" in order to avoid this difficulty. We have omitted, as you will note, "Anno Domini". We have placed the lettering in this panel above the center line horizontally because of the fact that at best the panel is rather low, and it seemed to us that the arrangement here arrived at seemed to be most pleasing. We have omitted the serifs from the M's and N's because it seemed to give more variety, and we find that this type of lettering has been used in the Roman lettering from the Forum.

The sections proposed to be used for the cutting of these incised letters are shown on the letters "C" of the south inscription and the letter "K" of the north inscription.

The general spacing is intentionally wide, due to the material which is Stony Creek granite, believing it will be more easily read than if a closer spacing were employed.

Very truly yours,
RICH, MATHESIUS & KOYL
By George S. Koyl

The architect members of the Commission gave the design particular attention. The Secretary stated that Mr. Koyl called recently and came to an agree-

ment with Mr. Moore as to the inscription. The blueprint now submitted is the result of that conference.

The Commission approved the wording of the inscription. The architect members of the Commission stated it could not be determined simply from the blueprints as to how the inscription will appear on the monument and a request was made for such a drawing from the architects.

The architects were advised accordingly. (Exhibit G; see also G-1 and G-2)

10. INSCRIPTIONS FOR THE ARLINGTON MEMORIAL BRIDGE: Mr. Wm. Mitchell Kendall submitted blueprints for the inscription on the panels at each side of the water gate of the Arlington Memorial Bridge, with a request that he would like to get final approval as to the wording. Major Gillette said that Mr. Kendall's office had left the word quarries off in one place and in two other places had left it on. Mr. Moore said he thought it would be better to leave that word off altogether. Mr. Swartwout did not think it made much difference. Some suggested, Major Gillette said, putting a date on the inscription to show when it was put on the bridge, but the Commission concluded that would not be necessary. Major Gillette said the Phoenix Steel Company desired to have the word constructed instead of erected used regarding the steel work and this was concurred in by the Commission.

Major Gillette said that at the last meeting Mr. Cross had suggested that the inscription run along line by line instead of being centered. Mr. Swartwout said that can not always be worked out so easily regarding the dividing of words. Colonel Grant suggested having a tablet on the bridge dedicated to those who had lost their lives for their country, in order to keep the bridge from being

dedicated to somebody else next year. Mr. Moore said the Commission has been considering the inscriptions to be put on the bridge in order to keep the bridge from being covered with tablets.

Mr. Moore saw no objection to having the dates of construction of the bridge placed at the bottom of the construction panel and also suggested giving the full title of the bridge on that panel. Mr. Kendall will submit a full-sized drawing.

11. ARLINGTON MEMORIAL LAMP POSTS: At the request of Lieut. Col. U. S. Grant, 3d, Executive and Disbursing Officer, Arlington Memorial Bridge Commission, the Commission on Friday afternoon made an inspection at the bridge of pasteboard models of posts proposed as lamp fixtures for the Arlington Memorial Bridge. These models were about four feet high, placed at intervals of about 60 feet at the curb of the roadway on the bridge. Mr. Kendall of the office of McKim, Mead and White was present during the inspection. While the Commission generally favored the scheme proposed, they decided that no conclusion could be reached in the matter until an actual model of this lamp post is installed. Major Gillette of the Arlington Memorial Bridge Commission said that the company preparing these fixtures did not wish to invest too much money in any sample models but he had hoped arrangements could be made for inspection of some models on the bridge at the next meeting of the Commission. Temporarily Colonel Grant had placed street lighting lamp-posts on the bridge since it is now open for traffic.

12. RED CROSS--TREATMENT OF COURTYARD: Mr. James H. McClintock, Vice President of the American National Red Cross, submitted a further landscape plan prepared by their landscape architect, Mr. Noel Chamberlin, for the treatment of the courtyard of the American Red Cross grounds. The design was a re-study of a former plan submitted and while the Commission noted that the

landscape architect had made some simplification in it, the Commission did not favor the oval treatment proposed for the court. The Commission felt that the courtyard should be given the treatment as far as possible of simply a rectangle with large trees and grass with the proposed Jane A. Delano Memorial on the north side of the quadrangle.

Mr. McClintock called particular attention to the question of building a stone wall on the D Street side of the grounds. Mr. McClintock said this is very costly and while such a terrace treatment would give them 14 more feet of lawn than possibly otherwise, they hesitate to spend the money for the stone wall.

The Commission offered to make a personal inspection of the grounds during the day and it was decided by the Commission during the inspection that the stone wall should not be built but that instead the D Street side of the grounds be given a grassy slope the same practically as that on the 17th Street side.

Colonel Grant called attention to the fact that elevation 29 shown on the plan as the elevation for the courtyard might not agree with the surveys of his office and asked that the Commission request Mr. McClintock to submit the plan to the Office of Public Buildings and Public Parks for verification. This was done accordingly in a letter addressed to Mr. McClintock.
(Exhibit H)

Later in the day members of the Commission talked with Dr. R. Tait McKenzie, sculptor of the Jane A. Delano Memorial, who was here in the city to visit the Fine Arts Exhibition, and heard from him that he was making further studies of the model, in consultation with Mr. Weinman. The members of the

Commission expressed a desire to see the model at the April meeting if Dr. McKenzie finds it sufficiently complete at that time for submission.

13. COLUMBIA ISLAND PLAZA DEVELOPMENT: The Commission gave further consideration to the question of motifs to take the place of the columns on Columbia Island. Mr. Kendall said his office had given further study to a design. The limit of height of the motifs in the circles is to be 65 feet. Mr. Kendall said the fundamental idea is to create something of the same importance as the columns by having mass with this little height. The limit of height being 65 feet, the importance will have to depend on the impression one gets on the spot as these fountains will never be seen from Washington. The trees are shown to be about 45 feet high though they will be higher later.

Mr. Moore asked Mr. Kendall regarding the two circles on the island which extend lengthwise. Mr. Moore said it brings up the whole question of the treatment of circles in Washington, especially the new circles that are going in. The circles are put in and then cut up by cross walks, thus making them as hard as they can be. It is up to the Commission at this time in connection with the treatment of the Ward Circle to decide what is proper in connection with the circles in Washington.

Mr. Cross said Mr. Kendall's motifs appealed to him very much. Mr. Kendall said he had run into symbolism extensively--the figures holding hands represented the North and the South and the outer figures represent the river gods. Mr. Weinman said he would like to see a big low mass architectural in style and not competing in height with anything. Mr. Kendall said such would not give the importance to a substitute for the 180-foot columns. Mr. Weinman suggested a larger fountain with a large exedra.

Mr. Swartwout suggested a broken line on the stem of the fountain so that it will not be quite so hard. Mr. Swartwout said that he liked the whole scheme and thought it very nice, but believed 33-foot high motifs a little too high. He suggested that the water shoot out higher and the motifs be a little lower. Mr. Cross agreed with Mr. Swartwout, saying that the fountain figure be spread out higher and the columns made a little lower. Mr. Kendall said he had made a number of models trying to determine the relative heights of the fountain and the columns and that if Mr. Cross and Mr. Swartwout would come to his office they could see the models and judge for themselves which are the best proportions. Mr. Swartwout said he thought these motifs will be better than the former high columns and Mr. Cross believed Mr. Kendall had succeeded in giving importance to the revised designs.

The Commission decided, however, that before any further steps should be taken in the matter of an alternate design to take the place of the columns the Arlington Memorial Bridge Commission through Colonel Grant should submit a topographical map of Columbia Island, which will show also the roads as they are to connect with Columbia Island Plaza. (Exhibit I)

14. COLONIAL GARDEN: Colonel Grant said a committee formed under the auspices of the George Washington Bicentennial Commission wants a place somewhere to put a Colonial Garden. Colonel Grant thought a place near the Hains Point tea house would be a good one for such a development. As yet there is some doubt about the committee getting the money. Mr. Moore said he would not think of it being put there but suggested that it be planted down along the Mount Vernon Highway. A garden would crowd Hains Point. Colonel Grant said a recreation place is going to be established at Fort Hunt, but the buildings

there would not be appropriate for a Colonial Garden. Mr. Moore again suggested one of those places along the Mount Vernon Highway where several small streams run together and where there could be excellent facilities for canoeing. Also if people have to go a little way to see a Colonial garden they will appreciate it more. A report on the subject of establishing a Colonial Garden was sent to Colonel Grant. (Exhibit J)

15. THE "FRENCH" AND "BACON" DRIVES: Colonel Grant suggested naming the diagonal roads leading up to the Lincoln Memorial, French and Bacon Drives in memory of Daniel Chester French and Henry Bacon, sculptor and architect, respectively, of the Lincoln Memorial. Major Gillette and Lieut. Butler said it is always a nuisance to designate these streets in contracts, etc. and if they were named it would be so much simpler. The Commission believed these names would be very appropriate. A report was sent to Colonel Grant on the subject. (Exhibit K)

16. WIDENING OF CONSTITUTION AVENUE: Major Gillette said it is necessary to fix the width of Constitution Avenue inasmuch as they have let a contract for the trees along the sides and the contractor wants to begin setting them out as the trees can not wait much longer to be planted. Major Gillette said several years ago the National Capital Park and Planning Commission devised a scheme, indicating what should be done to E Street, in which they recommended a width of 60 feet. Then the Treasury was given that data and widened the avenue to 60 feet in front of the Triangle with the result that it is about eight feet wider here than where it joins Pennsylvania Avenue, but this has been carefully concealed in 400 feet of length. Mr. Almsted wanted a narrow avenue from Virginia Avenue west because there is little traffic and also because it would

interfere, so he thought, with the steps and basins in front of the National Academy of Sciences Building. However, here the jog of 8 feet would have only 100 feet in which to hide it. Major Gillette said the National Capital Park and Planning Commission wanted to make the avenue 76 feet wide, which is a standard highway width, but Mr. Olmsted wanted 8 feet shaved off on the north side and then 8 feet on the south side, or a reduction to 64 feet. According to the National Capital Park and Planning Commission plan for a 76-foot width, on the south side the tree line and sidewalk would be the same right down to the river while on the north side there will be a little jog in the case of the ellipse and in two other places. Major Gillette said the new Public Health Service building grounds would be right in the way of the sidewalk. Mr. Moore replied that the Public Health Service would have to make their grounds conform to the line of Constitution Avenue. Major Gillette went on to say that Mr. Olmsted desired to keep Constitution Avenue from 17th Street on rather segregated from the other end and make it in keeping with the character of 17th Street, flanked by buildings with gardens.

Mr. Swartwout said he believed Mr. Olmsted is right about Constitution Avenue giving too long a vista, particularly since it will have no formal ending. Major Gillette said almost everyday cars collide near the little triangle south of the Pan American Union and the widening of the street would eliminate this. Of course, the temporary buildings have to be done away with first. Major Gillette said the people who are putting in the trees state that not to have the line of the trees straight would look like a mistake but Mr. Swartwout informed Major Gillette that the tree-line should not be changed but the line of the curb. Mr. Winter said he felt the street should be kept as wide as possible. Mr. Moore asked if 23rd Street is going to be widened, and Colonel

Grant replied that the money intended for this purpose had been used on something else.

Regarding traffic on Constitution Avenue, Major Gillette said people find it best to go down the Rock Creek and Potomac Parkway and then down Constitution Avenue in order to get to the shopping district. If the avenue is made 64 feet wide in but two years or more it will be necessary to widen it because of the traffic. Major Gillette said since we have the money and authority why not make the avenue as wide as possible; furthermore, Mr. Olmsted does not seriously object to the 60-foot width. Mr. Moore said he agreed with Mr. Olmsted's idea that this little section from 17th Street on be segregated but he doubted if it would work out. Mr. Swartwout said as a rule people in a growing city plan too small and later have to rebuild larger.

The Commission finally decided on the 60-foot width. Colonel Grant said there would be eventually something at the terminal of Constitution Avenue. Mr. Moore said it is necessary to have something to stop the eye at that point because there is no telling what will be built on the Virginia hills opposite. A report was sent to Colonel Grant. (Exhibit L)

17. FREER GALLERY OF ART: Under date of March 21, 1932, a letter was received from Lieut. Col. U. S. Grant, 3d, which Mr. Moore read at the meeting, as follows:

My dear Mr. Moore:

On the suggestion contained in your letter of January 30, 1932, I have carefully gone over the past correspondence and the record of the action taken by the National Capital Park and Planning Commission in connection with the placing of an inclosure about the Freer Gallery.

As far as this office is concerned, I recognize the practical difficulty of protecting the Freer Gallery against annoyance and a certain amount of vandalism due to the entirely inadequate number of Park police. I am sure that what could be done has been done and that the Freer Gallery has been better protected than my own house for instance, since three windows of the latter have been broken in the last few years and children playing on the adjacent vacant lot are very much of a nuisance when the weather is good. The only point I am trying to make is that the protection of the Freer Gallery has been fully as effective, if not more so, than the protection it would have in any other part of the city.

It may be that some sort of hedge or similar restriction of access to the immediate vicinity of the building would give it greater privacy and very much reduce the cause of complaint. As Director of Public Buildings and Public Parks, I have no objection to make to such an arrangement, except that any elaborate planting could not be maintained by this office without my securing additional funds in some way or other. If the Freer Gallery has funds to pay the maintenance cost, I would be ready to put on additional personnel to be so paid, or to assign a certain amount of the ground to the Freer Gallery itself for custody and maintenance.

The National Capital Park and Planning Commission did not, as I read the record, object to a low hedge or other planting which would give a certain amount of privacy and seclusion; but it did object to construction of a high fence, as was proposed some years ago. The Mall has always been treated as a large open park space, and even though not developed in the manner originally intended, it has been so treated in the past. The Commission believes that for one institution to preempt exclusive use of a considerable section of the Mall and by a high fence cut off the public from it would be inconsistent with the L'Enfant plan and the plan of 1901, and an incongruous intrusion on the Mall. I had hoped that Mr. Olmsted would be present at the last meeting of the Commission so that this could be taken up with him again in person, but he did not get here.

May we have a discussion of the whole question at the next meeting of the Commission of Fine Arts? In the meantime, could you find out whether the Freer Gallery would be ready to maintain any special planting done and whether it would be satisfied with a low hedge instead of the high fence previously recommended by Mr. Platt?

Yours very sincerely,
(Signed) U. S. Grant 3d, Director.

Mr. Platt, Mr. Moore said, made a garden^{plan} for the Freer Gallery but Colonel

Grant opposes anything which fences off any part of the Mall. In view of the

fact that the Smithsonian has an iron fence with planes housed in small corrugated iron shanties, this is somewhat an unreasonable view to take. The theory of the Mall from the very beginning, Mr. Moore said, is that a service road should run in front of the buildings and the individual building could treat its own back yard as it pleased. Mr. Moore cited the Archeological Museum at Florence, which is protected with its beautiful gardens. Mr. Cross said if a hedge were used it would have to be protected with a fence while getting a growth. Mr. Moore said it probably is that the curator is a little difficult to get along with and the children like to annoy him.

Colonel Grant, who was present, said he was surprised the Commission of Fine Arts recommended such a high fence in the Mall, but if it were a hedge, it would be a different matter. Mr. Moore replied that this fenced-in garden would be an outdoor park for the people, and repeated his statement regarding the fundamental idea of the Mall.

18. ARTEMAS WARD STATUE: Consideration was given to photographs of the model for the General Artemas Ward Statue, submitted by Leonard Crumelle, sculptor, of Chicago. Mr. Weirman said the arrangement of the folds had no life, lacked definition; the neck is too short; there is not enough style whereas with that sort of uniform the work could be brilliant; and in general it looks like a tired piece of work. However, he said the mass is good. Mr. Winter said the vest is too short and the points too long and the button-holes in the wrong direction.

Colonel Grant said the question of the circle for the Artemas Ward Statue just seems not to come to a conclusion very well. There are questions as to size of circle suitable for the monument and things of that sort. Therefore, the National Capital Park and Planning Commission wondered whether the

Commission would not feel it was something which should be settled by a competent landscape architect and some little thought and study given to it. Perhaps the people putting up the statue could have that looked into. Mr. Moore said that what we want to do is to make a study of this circle to see what the circles in Washington should be. Colonel Grant said the Bureau of Public Roads is making a study of circles from a traffic standpoint. He believed the District authorities are cold about the circle. Whereupon Mr. Moore informed him of the real status of the affair, also Mr. Caemmerer. Colonel Grant said the original circle was placed in a hollow but that was done on a map, whereas this circle will be on a height. A circle that is too small does not allow for the weaving in and out of traffic. It is now being urged not only by the District Commissioners but by the Board of Trade and various other organizations to have Thomas Circle cut through. Mr. Moore said inasmuch as this is a standing statue it would not take up so much space as an equestrian and could be accommodated to almost any size of circle. Mr. Weinman said Mr. Brunelle should know the size of the circle before going ahead with the final model. Mr. Moore told Colonel Grant that if he would say what he wants for traffic, the Commission will accommodate the statue to whatever size of circle is permitted. (Exhibit 1)

19. LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT MEMBER FOR THE COMMISSION: Mr. Moore said there have been various persons proposed. Mr. Christy has suggested either Mr. Pond or Mr. Hubbard as first choice. The Commission had asked Mr. Moore to ask Mr. Platt and Mr. Moore replied that Mr. Platt is strongly in favor of Major Clarke and Mr. Morris is also strongly in favor of him. Mr. Cross stated that Mr. Morris said Major Clarke is very easy to get along with but is very decided in his views. The landscape plan for the Mount Vernon Highway was designed by him. He also did some work on Long Island and especially in connection with the Bronx Park-

way. The only question was how strong Major Clarke is on design of an individual thing, the general opinion being that perhaps the Commission is strong enough in design to make up for this deficiency. Mr. Swartwout said if Major Clarke can design a piece of work such as the Mount Vernon Highway he ought to be able to design anything. Mr. Moore said Mr. Platt was not impressed with Mr. Lowrie, Mr. Greenleaf's and Mr. Vitale's choice. He said Major Clarke 'paints with a big brush' and since we have all these big questions of parkways, Major Clarke would be the man. Major Clarke was selected.

20. WASHINGTON, THE NATIONAL CAPITAL: The Secretary placed before the Commission a copy of the book prepared by him on Washington, the National Capital, which was printed according to a Resolution introduced by Senator Fess and adopted by Congress. The Secretary said that the book, which comprises 768 pages and 410 illustrations, is being made available to the public by the Superintendent of Documents at three dollars a copy. The members of the Commission were pleased with the book.

21. APPOMATTOX COURTHOUSE MEMORIAL: The Secretary called the attention of the Commission to an exhibition of designs that had been submitted to the War Department in response to a competition conducted by the Office of the Quartermaster General and stated that Brigadier General L. H. Bash, immediately in charge of the competition, had expressed a desire that the Commission inspect the designs if they should find this possible. The Secretary said 160 designs were submitted in all, of which one had been selected by a jury as the winning design. This design represented two columns symbolic of the North and the South surmounted by an olive wreath and proposed for the site known as "The Island", being the exact location of Appomattox Courthouse on the main highway through the town and the scene of surrender.

The Commission recalled that during a trip of inspection made to Appomattox at the meeting on October 24, the Commission had come to the conclusion that it would be most appropriate to re-erect the house in which the terms of surrender were signed. Colonel Grant accompanied the Commission during the inspection of the designs (in the Architects' Building at 18th and E Streets, N. W.). The Commission decided to give the matter further consideration at the next meeting.

22. FINE ARTS EXHIBITION OF THE GEORGE WASHINGTON BICENTENNIAL: The Exhibition of the Fine Arts of the George Washington Bicentennial celebration, which was prepared at the request of the George Washington Bicentennial Commission in the National Gallery of Art space of the National Museum, was opened officially on the afternoon of March 26. The opening took the form of a brief ceremony in which Hon. Simeon D. Fess, Chairman of the Joint Committee on the Library, unveiled the cast of the statue of George Washington by J. Q. A. Ward, which stands in front of the Sub-Treasury Building in New York City, made at the request of the National Sculpture Society by the Gorham Company of New York. Mr. Moore introduced Senator Fess, who spoke briefly of the general program of the George Washington Bicentennial celebration and of his interest in the Fine Arts Exhibition. Thereupon Mr. Charles Keck, President of the National Sculpture Society, made a brief address, in which he called attention to the exhibits by the leading art associations represented in this Exhibition and the important features of the Exhibition, namely, an Exhibition of Sculpture, of Mural Paintings, illustrating scenes in the life of George Washington, the Exhibition by the Alumni of the American Academy in Rome--a series of 100 enlarged photographs of executed work of the graduates of the American Academy in Rome, studies of the Mount Vernon Gardens prepared by the Harvard School of Landscape Architecture

and an Exhibition of the Plan of Washington prepared by the National Capital Park and Planning Commission in cooperation with the Commission of Fine Arts. The Exhibition is to be open during the period of the George Washington Bicentennial celebration, that is, to November 1932.

On Saturday after the visit to the Fine Arts Exhibition the Commission and other visiting artists were invited to tea by Mrs. Hoover at the White House.

C O L Y

April 5, 1932.

Sir:

With reference to the third revised design submitted by you for the proposed Yangtze Service Medal, I have to inform you that this design was considered by the Commission of Fine Arts at their meeting on March 25, 1932, and was brought to the particular attention of Mr. A. A. Weinman, the sculptor member of the Commission. The design was not considered satisfactory. It was thought considerable improvement could be made in the design of the Chinese junk. The Commission requested Mr. Weinman to take up the matter of completing the design with Mr. John R. Sinnock of the Philadelphia Mint.

When the Commission of Fine Arts receives a design from Mr. Sinnock that meets with the approval of the Commission I shall be pleased to report to you promptly.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Respectfully yours,

(Signed) Charles Moore,

Chairman.

The Honorable
The Secretary of the Navy,
Washington, D. C.

EXHIBIT A

C O P Y

April 7, 1932.

Dear General Bash:

In accordance with your request, arrangements were made for an inspection of the model for the Harrodsburg Memorial at the office of Mr. Francis Keally. Mr. John W. Cross and Mr. Egerton Swartwout represented the Commission at this inspection and at the meeting of the Commission of Fine Arts on March 25, 1932, they reported that they had reached an agreement with Mr. Keally as to a few changes that were deemed desirable in the model. These in general were as follows:

Widening the opening in the enclosing wall by the width of the cheek pieces on either side of the steps leading to the Memorial. The cheek pieces or curbing of the steps was likewise reduced so as to be but slightly above the edge of the steps finishing flush with the floor of the Memorial. It was also agreed that a slight pitch to the enclosing wall forming the back to the seat would be desirable, this back terminating in a slight lip or nosing to overcome too harsh an effect.

It was decided, however, to leave the technical decisions as to planting to be used for consideration at a future meeting of the Commission.

The model of the sculpture has not as yet been submitted.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Respectfully yours,
(Signed) Charles Moore,
Chairman.

Brigadier General L. H. Bash, Chief,
Construction Division,
Office of the Quartermaster General,
War Department,
Washington, D. C.

EXHIBIT B

C O P Y

March 31, 1932.

Dear Sir:

The Commission of Fine Arts return herewith the models of the proposed twenty-five cent piece, submitted with your letter of March 23, with the advice that they be not executed. This is the unanimous decision of the Commission reached after a careful examination of the models at their meeting on March 25, 1932. The suggestion in your letter that the models be restudied in order to meet the criticisms made by the Commission in their letter of January 20, 1932, is not practicable, in the judgment of the Commission, since those objections are fundamental.

The face of Washington is weak. It should be strong, as shown in the Houdon life mask at Mount Vernon. The arrangement of the hair is not only unnatural but also it detracts from the strength of the head.

The eagle on the reverse is not a good eagle in itself, and it is lacking in symbolic quality. It does not represent the dignity and power which an emblem of the United States should have. Moreover, the balance is not good. The model shows emphasis on non-essentials and subordinates essentials.

The Commission has in mind that in reducing these models to the actual size of the coin, some details now visible will be lost and, on the other hand, other details will be increased. Emphasis, balance, simplicity and dignity are essential in medalic art, and the Commission

EXHIBIT C

are confident that in the coin itself these essentials would be lacking.

For these reasons the Commission find the models submitted unacceptable and advise their rejection. They do not reach the standards of design which should characterize the coinage of the United States. It is these standards which the Commission is solicitous that the national coinage shall attain.

In this connection, this Commission respectfully calls attention to these pertinent facts: On the completion of legislation by Congress authorizing a new quarter-dollar, the Treasury Department instituted a wide-open competition, which resulted in the submission of about one hundred models, the great majority of which were sent in by persons unskilled in medalic art and were easily rejected. Among the number, however, were designs for an obverse and reverse which were highly acceptable, subject to slight modifications easily made by the medalist. The Commission recommended that these models be restudied and resubmitted. The Department then selected five models for resubmission. These five sets of models again came before the Commission, and one of the number was approved as entirely acceptable. The reasons for the rejection of the others were given. Then one of the unacceptable sets of models was sent back to the Commission with the suggestion that it be again restudied. It is this set that the Commission now returns with the advice that the objections are too serious to be overcome.

It is respectfully submitted that in instituting competitions it is only just to all the competitors that their work should be judged by the recognized rules of their profession and that the decision shall be made accordingly. Otherwise artists of reputation can not afford to enter competitions. In calling attention to these considerations this Commission feel that they are working in the best interests of the Government, as well as in the interests of the artists who have accepted the invitation of the Government with the understanding that the work to which they devote their skill and time shall receive corresponding consideration.

By direction of the Commission of Fine Arts:

Very respectfully yours,

(Signed) Charles Moore,

Chairman.

The Honorable
The Secretary of the Treasury,
Washington, D. C.

C O P Y

March 28, 1932.

Dear Mr. Heath:

At the meeting of the Commission of Fine Arts held on March 25, 1932, Mr. Louis A. Simon submitted in behalf of the Treasury Department a sketch model of the proposed treatment of the area to be occupied by the National Institute of Health west of the Naval Hospital. Due to the contour of the land the Commission considered the development of a plan for the grounds, including the location of the proposed building, as quite a difficult problem. However, the Commission are satisfied with the sketch model, including the location of the proposed building of the National Institute of Health.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Very respectfully yours,

(Signed) Charles Moore,

Chairman.

Hon. Ferry K. Heath,
Assistant Secretary of the Treasury,
Washington, D. C.

EXHIBIT D

C O P Y

March 28, 1932.

Dear Dr. Kelly:

The Commission of Fine Arts at their meeting on March 25, 1932, considered the sketch submitted by Mr. John Russell Pope of the American Pharmaceutical Association Building, showing the location of the building slightly in front of that of the National Academy of Sciences Building. The Commission regarded the plan satisfactory and approved it.

The Commission are awaiting enactment of legislation for the closing of Upper Water Street between 22nd and 23rd Streets, which passed the Senate and is now pending in the House of Representatives. It is understood, of course, that no construction work can be begun for the erection of the proposed building until the enactment of this legislation.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Very sincerely yours,

(Signed) Charles Moore,

Chairman.

Dr. E. F. Kelly, Secretary,
American Pharmaceutical Association,
10 West Chase Street,
Baltimore, Maryland.

EXHIBIT E

American Pharmaceutical Association

ORGANIZED 1852 INCORPORATED 1888

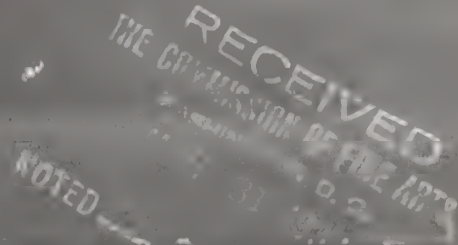
OFFICERS OF THE ASSOCIATION—1931-1932

President, E. F. KELLY
10 W. Chase St., Baltimore, Md.
Treasurer, C. W. HOLTON
200 N. Texas Pkwy, N. J.
Editor of the Year Book, A. C. DODMAN
Lombard and Green Sts., Baltimore, Md.
Editor of the Journal, E. G. ECKHART
10 W. Chase St., Baltimore, Md.

Chairman of the Council, S. L. HILTON
1033 22nd St., N. W., Washington, D. C.
First-Chairman of the Council, CHARLES H. LAWR
314 E. 12th St., Philadelphia, Pa.
Chairman House of Delegates, THOMAS E. ROSS
110 W. Main St., Oklahoma City, Okla.
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Secretary, HENRY S. WELLCOME
London, England
First-President, J. H. BEARD
Capital Hill, N. C.
Second-President, J. W. DARRAVALL
20 Minnesota Ave., Minneapolis, Minn.

Mr. Charles Moore, Chairman,
The Commission of Fine Arts,
Interior Department Building,
Washington, D. C.



March 30, 1932

Dear Mr. Moore:

Your letter of March 28th is received and we are very pleased to learn that the Commission of Fine Arts has approved the plan submitted by Mr. Pope for the location of our building slightly in advance of the building of the National Academy of Sciences.

We understand that no construction work on our building can be begun until the legislation for the closing of Upper Water Street, between 22nd and 23rd Streets, has passed the House of Representatives. We are doing all that we can to expedite this legislation and appreciate the assistance that has been given us.

Very sincerely yours,

E. F. Kelly
Secretary.

K:H

GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

ENGINEER DEPARTMENT
DEPARTMENT OF INSPECTION

ADDRESS REPLY TO
DIRECTOR OF INSPECTION

April
Seventh
Nineteen
Thirty-two

RECEIVED
THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS
WASHINGTON, D.C.
APR 3 1932
ROUTED

Mr. H. P. Caemmerer, Secretary,
The Commission of Fine Arts,
Interior Department Building,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Caemmerer:

Major Davison has asked me to comment direct to you on the proposed Architectural Regulations of the District of Columbia, issued jointly by the Commissioners of the District of Columbia and the National Commission of Fine Arts, as applying to areas coming within the provisions of the Shipstead-Luce Act.

Speaking generally, the regulations governing construction and procedure are thought to be ample, and to clearly define what an applicant must do. I would like to suggest that under "PROCEDURE", sub-heading "Conferences", the words "before or" be added after the word "representative", so as to read: "Conferences with the Commission of Fine Arts may be arranged by the owner or his representative before or after submission of applications."

It is also suggested that under "REQUIREMENTS" -- B. GENERAL RESTRICTIONS, -- 1. Projections, that the phrase after the word "otherwise", be stricken out so as to read: "1. Projections: No portion of any such building shall occupy public space in any street or avenue for extensions or otherwise."

Very truly yours,



HUGH P. ORAM,
Director of Inspection.

HPO:j

c o p y

March 28, 1932.

Dear Sirs:

The Commission of Fine Arts, at their meeting on March 25, 1932, considered the blueprints you submitted of the inscription proposed for the James Cardinal Gibbons Memorial. The Commission approve the wording of the inscription. However, the Commission could not determine simply from the blueprints how the inscription will appear on the monument, and request that you submit a drawing of the pedestal showing the inscription.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Very respectfully yours,

(Signed) Charles Moore,

Chairman.

Rich, Mathesius & Koyl, Architects,
320 Fifth Avenue,
New York, N. Y.

EXHIBIT G

RICH
MATHESIUS AND KOYL
ARCHITECTS

320 FIFTH AVENUE, NEW YORK

RECEIVED
THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS
WASHINGTON, D. C.
APR 5 1932

April 4th, 1932.

Mr. Charles Moore,
Chairman, Commission of Fine Arts,
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Moore: Re: James Cardinal Gibbons Memorial

We are sending you under separate cover, two prints of a drawing showing the location of the lettering on the pedestal for the Cardinal Gibbons Memorial. We regret that this drawing did not accompany full size details for the lettering.

We are anxious to have your criticisms and approval, in order that we may be able to send the working drawings to the contractor at an early date.

Very respectfully yours,

RICH, MATHESIUS & KOYL

by

George S. Koyle

K/I

EXHIBIT G-1

C O P Y

April 9, 1932.

Dear Sirs:

The Commission of Fine Arts approve the lettering of the inscription for the James Cardinal Gibbons Memorial as you propose to place it on the pedestal according to the blueprint submitted, subject to these suggestions:

The blueprints were brought to the attention of Mr. John W. Cross who seemed to think the panels seemed a trifle crowded and a slight modification of the letter size panels is therefore suggested. Mr. Swartwout has a feeling that the letters are large although the biggest is only $3\frac{1}{8}$ inches high; if cut in granite, he thinks they probably will be satisfactory.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Very truly yours,

(Signed) Charles Moore,

Chairman.

Rich, Mathesius & Koyl,
320 Fifth Avenue,
New York, N. Y.

EXHIBIT G-2

C O P Y

March 29, 1932.

My dear Mr. McClintock:

The Commission of Fine Arts at their meeting on March 26, 1932, considered with you a plan of the garden court for the American Red Cross, prepared by Noel Chamberlin, landscape architect, 101 Park Avenue, New York City.

The Commission visited the grounds with Colonel Grant and discussed the questions raised by you. As a result of this study they advise that the grounds be graded up from the lot line, keeping the slope approximately uniform along the south from Seventeenth to Eighteenth Streets. They further advise that the oval be omitted and that the entire space to the walk between the east and west buildings be plain grass with large trees for shade. The north and south walks near the building should be retained and made inconspicuous by small irregular planting. The retaining wall would be omitted. The Commission recommend that you bring this plan to the attention of Lieut. Col. G. S. Grant, 3d, Director of Public Buildings and Public Parks of the National Capital, for advice as to grades.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Very truly yours,
(Signed) Charles Moore,
Chairman.

Mr. James K. McClintock, Vice Chairman,
American Red Cross,
Washington, D. C.

EXHIBIT H

C O P Y

April 6, 1932.

Dear Colonel Grant:

In order to make a study of the treatment of Columbia Island in connection with your office, the Commission of Fine Arts desire:

1. A topographical survey of the Island, showing the roads as already determined upon and the circles, together with the established treatment of these roads, both leading to the circles and also along the water.

2. A survey of the boundary road on the Arlington side of the channel between Columbia Island and the mainland of Virginia.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) Charles Moore,

Chairman.

Lieut. Col. U. S. Grant 3d,
Executive and Disbursing Officer,
Arlington Memorial Bridge Commission,
Washington, D. C.

EXHIBIT I

C O P Y

April 9, 1932.

Dear Colonel Grant:

The Commission of Fine Arts at their meeting on March 25, 1932, considered your suggestion for a colonial garden in Washington, made in behalf of a committee formed under the auspices of the George Washington Bicentennial Commission.

The Commission think it would be of interest to have a colonial garden but not in the already congested area at Hains Point. The Commission would suggest that a colonial garden be developed in connection with the Botanic Garden near the Capitol or somewhere along the Mount Vernon Highway at a point where it could receive proper protection and care.

The Commission have been interested in the development of a colonial garden at Wakefield and find that it is quite a problem to make it strictly colonial. Plants placed in the garden should, of course, belong to the period and the design of the garden should be made by a landscape architect skilled in the profession and also possessing the necessary historical information on the subject.

In this connection attention is called to the designs of colonial gardens recently made by the School of Landscape Architecture of Harvard University of the gardens at Mount Vernon and which were made for the Exhibition of the Fine Arts and are now in the National Gallery of Art space.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Very respectfully yours,

(Signed) Charles Moore,

Chairman.

Lieut. Col. U. S. Grant 3d, Director,
Public Buildings and Public Parks
of the National Capital,
Washington, D. C.

EXHIBIT J

C O P Y

March 30, 1932.

Dear Colonel Grant:

The Commission of Fine Arts at their meeting on March 26, 1932, approved your suggestion to name the diagonal drive-ways to the Lincoln Memorial "The Bacon Drive" and "The French Drive".

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Very respectfully yours,

(Signed) Charles Moore,

Chairman.

Lieut. Col. U. S. Grant, 3d, Director,
Public Buildings and Public Parks
of the National Capital,
Washington, D. C.

To avoid ribaldry would it not be well to call them
the Henry Bacon Drive and the Daniel Chester French Drive?

EXHIBIT K

C O P Y

March 28, 1932.

Dear Colonel Grant:

After careful consideration of the plan for Constitution Avenue which you presented at the meeting of the Commission of Fine Arts on March 26, 1932, the Commission recommend that Constitution Avenue be widened to 80 feet west of Seventeenth Street, so as to make it of uniform width from the Capitol to the Potomac River.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Very respectfully yours,

(Signed) Charles Moore,

Chairman.

Lieut. Col. U. S. Grant 3d,
Executive and Disbursing Officer,
Arlington Memorial Bridge Commission,
Washington, D. C.

Very respectfully yours,

EXHIBIT L

Chairman.

Lieut. Col. U. S. Grant 3d, Executive
and Disbursing Officer,
National Capital Park and Planning Commission,
Washington, D. C.

EXHIBIT M

C O P Y

March 31, 1932.

Dear Colonel Grant:

With reference to the location proposed for the General Artemas Ward Statue at the intersection of Massachusetts and Nebraska Avenues, will you please furnish the Commission of Fine Arts a plan which has the approval of the National Capital Park and Planning Commission, showing the size of the circle that could be adopted at that location as one which meets traffic requirements?

The Commission of Fine Arts will adapt itself to this plan in connection with the erection of the statue of General Artemas Ward. In the discussions of the subject the Commission have felt that the circle should have at least the diameter of Scott Circle on 16th Street.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Very respectfully yours,

(Signed) Charles Moore,

Chairman.

Lieut. Col. U. S. Grant 3d, Executive
and Disbursing Officer,
National Capital Park and Planning Commission,
Washington, D. C.

EXHIBIT M

